

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 081400Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3614

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, UG, IS

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI RAID AT ENTEBBE

1. ACCORDING TO FRONT PAGE JULY 8 ZAMBIAN PRESS, ZAMBIAN FONMIN MWALE ON HIS JULY 7 RETURN TO LUSAKA SAID, "ZAMBIA CONDEMNS THE INVASION OF ANY OAU MEMBER STATE AND WE CONFIRM OUR SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA ON THIS ISSUE".

2. FONMIN'S STATEMENT FOLLOWED EXTENSIVE, PROMINENT, BUT NOT OVERLY EXCITED COVERAGE OF ISRAELI RAID BY ZAMBIAN PRESS. JULY 5 TIMES OF ZAMBIA EDITORIAL WAS MOST STRIDENT PRESS COMMENT ON RAID. PRESS CARRIED WITHOUT COMMENT COVERAGE OF REACTION ELSEWHERE IN WORLD INCLUDING PRES. FORD'S MESSAGE TO ISRAELI PM RABIN. TIMES EDITORIAL LABELED ISRAELI RAID AS "WANTON" WARNING IT REPRESENTED "SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION OF HOT PURSUIT" POSING A TEST AND HAZARD TO AFRICAN UNITY.

ALSO EXPRESSING FEAR EXAMPLE RAID PROVIDED TO RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, EDITORIAL OBLIQUELY AND NON-SPECIFICALLY SWIPE

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AT KENYA'S INVOLVEMENT AND HIGHLIGHTED NEED FOR AFRICAN

RULERS "TO PUT ASIDE THEIR PETTY DIFFERENCES AND EVOLVE AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE ARRANGEMENT".

3. COMMENT: FONMIN'S STATEMENT APPEARS LEAST ZAMBIANS COULD DO IN REACTING TO ISRAELI RAID COMING WHEN IT DID DURING OAU DELIBERATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE CURRENTLY NO INDICATION THAT AMIN'S EMBARRASSMENT LIKELY TO BECOME SIGNIFICANT ISSUE FOR GRZ. CONTRASTING WITH TIME'S EDITORIAL'S ANTAGONISTIC TONE WERE THE LOW-KEY AND SOME CLOSE TO ADMIRING COMMENTS REGARDING ISRAELIS' ACTION MADE BY ZAMBIAN GUESTS TO OFFICIAL AMERICANS AT AMBAS-SADOR'S JULY 4 RECEPTION.
WILKOWSKI

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